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## **Tips to Avoid Mosquitoes During Your 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festivities**

Integrated Mosquito Management Program

Late June 2012

### **Tips to avoid mosquitoes during your 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.**

Your plans for the 4th of July may include fireworks, barbecues, parties, family and friends. Chances are you won't want to battle mosquitoes during those festivities.

Mosquitoes are attracted to anything they can get a blood meal from. By taking simple precautions, you can lower your chances of getting bit by mosquitoes and avoid mosquito-borne diseases.

If possible, avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active. If you plan to watch fireworks or enjoy the evening outside with family and friends be sure to use insect repellent. For added protection, wear light color clothing, long sleeves, and long pants. Avoid perfume, colognes, or other heavy scents that may attract mosquitoes.

A wide variety of insect repellent products are available. It is recommended that you use products containing active ingredients which have been registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use as repellents applied to skin and clothing. Always follow label directions when applying mosquito repellants and see if it is appropriate to apply to children, as some may have concentrations not suitable for small children. Products containing DEET and Picaridin typically provide longer-lasting protection than others, but products containing Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus (PMD) also provide a reasonable amount protection.

Lastly, take a look around your yard and empty any container that is holding standing water. Mosquitoes breed in that water and stay close to that area when they hatch and feed. It is a simple task that makes a huge difference in the mosquito population in your yard.

If you have questions, want to an area with mosquito problems, or need additional information about mosquitoes, call Franklin County Public Health's Mosquito Bite Line at (614) 525-BITE (2483) and leave a message; your call will be returned within one business day. You can also visit [www.myfcph.org](http://www.myfcph.org).

Follow us on Facebook (Franklin County Public Health) and/or Twitter (FC\_PublicHealth) to receive notifications regarding mosquitoes or mosquito spraying as it is scheduled.

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